



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/034,372	01/03/2002	Akimoto Masao	P21380	8656
7055	7590	03/14/2005	EXAMINER	
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191			JOO, JOSHUA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2154	

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/034,372

Applicant(s)

MASAO ET AL.

Examiner

Joshua Joo

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>01/03/2002</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2154

1. Claims 1-6 are presented for examination.
2. Claims 1-6 are rejected.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted 01/03/2002 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-2, 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tada, US Patent #6,237,040 and in view of Beer et al, US Patent #5,864,676 (Beer hereinafter).

6. As per claims 1 and 5, Tada teaches an invention for accessing email through a web browser by converting email data into HTML data. Tada's invention comprises of:

- a) An e-mail communicator that receives e-mail according to the SMTP protocol
(Col 4, line 2; Col 4, lines 18-21. Mail server receives email through SMTP protocol.)
- b) An HTML data converter that converts the e-mail data into an HTML data (Col 4, lines 45-46; Col 5, lines 20-21. Converts email into HTML data.);

c) An HTTP communication processor that transmits the HTML data according to the HTTP protocol (Col 4, lines 62-65; Col 5, lines 40-41; Col 6, line 14. HTML file is sent according to the HTTP protocol with a link tag, which allows for the access of the email HTML data.).

7. Tada teaches of providing a link tag to the HTML data to access the email HTML data from a web browser (Col 5, lines 40-41; Col 6, line 14).

8. Tada does not specifically teach of a URL converter that converts a destination address of the e-mail into a URL format.

9. Beer teaches an invention for an URL login system, where a user's email address is converted into a URL format (Col 4, lines 10-30).

10. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made combine the teachings of Tada and Beer because both inventions teach the accessing of emails through a URL. The invention of Tada is to access nonHTML through a web browser without the need of a separate email program, so the email data is converted into HTML data. Thus, it would also be desirable to convert the email address into an URL to access the information using just a web browser as taught by Beer. Furthermore, the teachings of Beer would improve the capability of Tada's invention by allowing users to access their private information, regardless of location, on a public computer system.

11. As per claim 2, Tada does not specifically teach the communication control apparatus of Claim 1, wherein, the URL converter converts an "@" mark in the destination address into a dot,

Art Unit: 2154

and adds "HTTP://" at the beginning of the converted mail address, whereby, the mail address is converted into a URL format.

12. Beer teaches an invention for an URL login system, where a user's email address is converted into a URL. The "@" is replaced with a dot and "HTTP://" is added to the beginning of the converted mail address (Col 4, lines 10-30).

13. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made combine the teachings of Tada and Beer because both inventions teach the accessing of emails through a URL. The invention of Tada is to access nonHTML through a web browser without the need of a separate email program, so the email data is converted into HTML data. Thus, it would also be desirable to convert the email address into an URL format to access the information using just a web browser as taught by Beer. Furthermore, the teachings of Beer would improve the capability of Tada's invention by allowing users to access their private information, regardless of location, on a public computer system.

14. Claims 3-4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tada, US Patent #6,237,040 and in view of P. Mockapetris, RFC 1034 – Domain names – concepts and facilities, November 1987.

15. As per claims 3 and 6, Tada teaches an invention for accessing email through a web browser by converting email data into HTML data. Tada's invention comprises of:

a) An HTTP communication processor that receives HTML data according to the HTTP protocol (Col 7, lines 27-35. Receives HTML data according to the HTTP protocol.);

Art Unit: 2154

b) An e-mail data converter that converts the HTML data into an e-mail data ((Col 5, lines 20-25; Col 7, lines 27-35. WWW-added service provider, which is responsible for conversion from email data to HTML data, transmits data according to the SMTP protocol. Conversion from HTML to email data is inherent.);

c) An e-mail communicator that transmits the e-mail data to an e-mail address converter by the address converter, according to the SMTP protocol (Col 7, lines 27-35. Data is transmitted according to the SMTP protocol.).

16. Tada does not teach an address converter that converts a URL designated by the HTML data into an e-mail address format.

17. Mockpetris teaches the relationship of a domain name and an email address format, which allows for a convention for mapping between object names and domain names such as conversion between domain names and its mail addresses. (Page 8, Section 3.3).

18. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modifying the teachings of Tada with the teachings of Mockpetris to allow for mapping between object names and domain names because it improves the invention of Tada by using an established protocol to implement domain name facilities and by allowing the DNS to maintain naming information. Doing so would allow the user to use its domain name as its email address and protects the user's rights.

19. As per claim 4, Tada does not teach the communication control apparatus of Claim 3, wherein the address converter deletes the HTTP:// in the URL and further converts a dot into an "@" mark, whereby, the URL is converted into an e-mail address format.

Art Unit: 2154

20. Mockpetris teaches the relationship of a domain name and an email address format, which would allow for a convention for mapping between object names and domain names. (Page 8, Section 3.3).

21. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modifying the teachings of Tada with the teachings of Mockpetris to allow for mapping between object names and domain names because it improves the invention of Tada by using an established protocol to implement domain name facilities and by allowing the DNS to maintain naming information. Doing so would allow the user to use its domain name as its email address and protects the user's rights.

Conclusion

22. A shortened statutory period for reply to this Office action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action.

23. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua Joo whose telephone number is 571 272-3966 and fax number is 571 273-3966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 8 to 5:30.

24. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on 571 272-3964.

Art Unit: 2154

25. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 2, 2005

JJ

 JOHN FOLLANSBEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100